



March 2005

## Minutes of January 27 Meeting

### HECB Members Present

Mr. Bob Craves, chair  
Mr. Gene Colin, secretary  
Ms. Roberta Greene, vice chair  
Mr. Jesus Hernandez  
Mr. Bill Marler  
Mr. Anthony Rose  
Mr. Herb Simon  
Mr. Michael Worthy  
Ms. Joan Yoshitomi

### *Welcome and introductions*

Bob Craves, HECB chair, welcomed the board members and others in attendance, and started the round of introductions.

### *Consent agenda items approved*

**ACTION:** Herb Simon made a motion, seconded by Roberta Greene, to approve the consent agenda items: (1) the minutes of the November 15 and December 10 board meetings, and (2) draft rules for the proposed minimum freshman admission requirements (**Res. 05-01**). After some discussion clarifying that the board was being asked to merely approve *not the new standards*, but the draft rules on minimum admissions as a way of beginning the process for discussion and public comment, the motion to approve was unanimous.

### *Director's report*

HECB Executive Director James Sulton provided updates on HECB programs and activities and other education-related matters:

- *Pell grants:* A change in the funding formula announced by the U.S. Department of Education will cause a two- to three-percent reduction in overall Pell dollars, resulting in the loss of their entire Pell grant for approximately 2,800 Washington students.

- *HECB fiscal committee:* The fiscal committee and HECB staff met with several representatives from the University of Washington and Washington State University to discuss performance contracts and issues related to higher education funding.
- *Baccalaureate pilot project in two-year colleges:* In an effort aimed at expanding capacity, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) has announced that some two-year colleges could begin planning pilot projects that would lead to baccalaureate degrees. The recommendation would require legislative and HECB approval.
- *Sliding Scale Tuition:* One of the tuition-related strategies being considered in light of the state's higher education funding situation is to charge tuition based on students' capability to pay. Proponents of the plan believe higher tuition rates would create a pool of money that would be sufficient to provide financial aid scholarships to those in need.

### ***“The Future of Branch Campuses”***

Sulton presented the highlights of the HECB recommendations on the future development of the state's branch campuses, as required by House Bill 2707. In summary, the HECB is recommending that UW Tacoma and WSU Vancouver be allowed to become 4-year universities, while staff will continue to review the proposals put forth by UW Bothell and WSU Tri-Cities.

Sulton summarized written comments received from UW President Mark Emmert and WSU President V. Lane Rawlins. Additionally, the following institutional and community representatives presented testimony during the meeting:

- Fred Campbell, UW vice provost
- Warren Buck, UW Bothell chancellor
- Tom Bellamy, UWB vice chancellor
- Steven Olswang, UW Tacoma interim chancellor
- Larry Ganders, assistant to the WSU president
- Larry James, WSU Tri-Cities chancellor
- Jan Yoshiwara, SBCTC director of education services
- David Wain Coon, Cascadia Community College vice president for student success
- Leo Bowman, Benton County commissioner.

Campbell (UW) and Ganders (WSU) asked the board to move forward with its recommendations for the Vancouver and Tacoma campuses, and to allow for selected lower division courses at Bothell and Tri-Cities. They also asked that the language rejecting the Bothell and Tri-Cities efforts to become four-year institutions be deleted, that the board continue to study the issue and that final recommendations for the future development of WSU Tri-Cities and UW Bothell be delayed until next year.

Roberta Greene asked Campbell and Ganders to confirm that if the proposal were amended as requested, that they would support the HECB's recommendations when lobbying legislators.

**ACTION:** **Gene Colin** made a motion to approve the HECB recommendations on branch campus development (**Res. 05-02**). **Mike Worthy** seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a majority 7-2 vote, with Jesus Hernandez and Bill Marler opposed. (One member was absent.)

Concerns expressed included the view that the branch campus study presents only a small slice of the statewide system, and that potentially larger problems or inefficiencies could result. However, the proposal as written was also seen as a step forward in addressing the state's tremendous need for added capacity

*The HECB's recommendations (as approved) are as follows:*

- **UW Bothell** should expand its upper-division and graduate/professional programs, and should offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields that are not addressed by programs at the co-located Cascadia Community College. UWB should not admit freshmen and sophomores at this time, except under co-admission or co-enrollment agreements with Cascadia and other nearby community and technical colleges. The prospective enrollment of freshmen and sophomores at UWB in the future should be the subject of further study by the HECB. The board should receive a report on this topic from agency staff by December 31, 2005.
- **UW Tacoma** should expand its upper-division and graduate/professional programs with a priority on programs needed by students and employers in its service region. In addition, the campus should offer lower-division coursework and admit freshman and sophomore students who meet the university's admission criteria beginning in fall 2007. The UWT proposes an incremental approach to developing its lower-division capacity, and the board endorses this approach.
- **WSU Tri-Cities** should proceed with plans to expand the availability of selected lower-division courses linked to specific majors that are not offered by programs at Columbia Basin College, the branch campus's primary two-year partner. The campus also should further develop its partnership with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. However, projected enrollment demand in the Tri-Cities region does not support the enrollment of freshman and sophomore students at this time. Prospective enrollment of freshman and sophomore students at WSU Tri-Cities is a matter that should also be addressed in the December 31, 2005, HECB staff report.
- **WSU Vancouver** should develop into a four-year university within the WSU system along the lines proposed by the university, within the parameters of an institutional model appropriate for a metropolitan university. Southwest Washington is the least well-served area of the state in terms of higher education, and expanding WSU Vancouver would be of both regional and statewide benefit.

***Financial aid update***

Financial Aid Committee Chair Gene Colin proposed that the board defer a planned discussion of financial aid issues, suggesting instead that the financial aid subcommittee focus on discussion items for presentation to the board.

***Governor Locke's proposed 2005-07 operating and capital budgets***

Gary Benson, HECB director of fiscal policy, reviewed former Gov. Locke's proposed operating budget; "book one" and "book two." Book one would not provide additional revenue for higher education, but would include salary and faculty enhancements. Book two would raise \$504 million in additional revenue through a tax on liquor and soda, and would help fund increases in higher education enrollments and financial aid.

Benson said Book one would be the starting point for Gov. Gregoire. In the HECB's revised operating budget request (approved in December 2004), the board recommended \$400 million in higher education policy enhancements. Gov. Locke recommended \$260 million.

Jim Reed, HECB associate director of fiscal policy, provided an update on Gov. Locke's proposed capital budget. The governor's total capital budget request is \$2.8 billion, with \$870 million earmarked for higher education. In response to a question about increasing the sale of additional bonds, Reed explained that the \$1.4 billion generated from the sale of bonds is close to the statutory limit, and that there are most likely no other options.

***2005 legislative update***

Bruce Botka, HECB director of governmental relations, briefed the board on upcoming legislative issues, including:

- At the request of Gov. Gregoire, identical legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate that calls for a study of the state's early learning, K-12 and higher education systems. In higher education, the study will look at a new funding system, enrollment distribution, tuition and financial aid, instructional costs, transition from K-12 to postsecondary opportunities, options for private enrollment, capacity, and governance.

Greene asked if the HECB would be included in the group that would conduct the study. Botka said an amendment was underway that would do that.

**ACTION:** **Herb Simon** moved to support both the Senate and House in their efforts to study the state's education system. **Bob Craves** seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

- The House is considering House Bill 1100, which would establish a financial aid account for unspent funds that could be retained for the following year. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year this bill has been brought to the Legislature.

- Gov. Locke has proposed extending the Promise Scholarship to the top 20 percent (up from 15 percent) of the students who meet income eligibility standards, and increasing individual awards to 75 percent of community college tuition (up from 51 percent). Identical legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate.
- House Bill 1345 would expand student eligibility for the State Need Grant to students enrolled in at least four credits per quarter. If enacted into law, this legislation would expand opportunities for non-traditional students.
- House Bill 1050 – which has been endorsed by the House Higher Education Committee – would establish a foster care endowed scholarship, to be administered by the HECB in conjunction with other organizations.
- Bipartisan legislation has been introduced to clarify that students who hold non-immigrant visas are not eligible for resident tuition rates in Washington. This legislation would amend the law that was created by House Bill 1079 during the 2003 legislative session.
- Legislation requested by Gov. Locke would codify the College in the High School program in state law. The HECB, SBCTC, and OSPI would jointly establish program rules.
- Senate Bill 5360 would restrict participation in the state's Running Start program to only those students who have earned a Certificate of Academic Achievement.

***Articulation and student transfer (House Bill 2382)***

Nina Oman, associate director for policy, presented a synopsis of HB 2382. The bill charges the HECB to create a statewide system of course equivalency for public higher education institutions; making programs available online and providing a helpful resource for transfer students.

HB 2382 also requires the HECB to convene work groups to develop transfer associate degrees that will satisfy lower-division requirements at public four-year institutions for specific majors. These “associate degree pathways” are included in the 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education.

***Accountability Update: 2003-04 Performance by the Public Baccalaureate Institutions***

House Bill 3103 (Section 11) and the strategic master plan call for the HECB to work together with representatives from the two-year and four-year public institutions to design a new accountability monitoring and reporting system. Recommendations for a new system will be presented to the board in April.

## Meeting with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

During the afternoon session, members of the HECB and the WTECB met as a group for the first time to discuss common concerns and areas for collaboration.

The boards agreed that the key mission of both agencies lies in *students and their success*. They talked about the value of a more seamless system -- starting with apprenticeship programs that count toward a college degree; common course numbering agreements across the two-year and four-year schools; and the need for middle school and high school students to learn more about opportunities that are available to them. WTECB members also talked about the perceived stigma connected with vocational work.

The WTECB is in agreement with the HECB's budget request to develop a statewide data system that would enhance student transfer.

In summary, key points of the joint meeting are:

- The need for better joint messaging on how to encourage student success
- The need for a step-by-step process for demand
- Interest in the baccalaureate degree process
- Need for a better student guiding process
- Common interest in securing more funding
- New emphasis together on articulation and other common interest issues

WTECB members present at the meeting were: David Harrison, chair; Asbury Lockett, Rick Bender, Julianne Hanner, John McGinnis, Mike Hudson for Don Brunell, Kyra Kester for Terry Bergeson, Beth Thew, Earl Hale, and WTECB executive director Ellen O'Brien Saunders.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.